



Mayor Coleman's 2010 Budget: Reforming Government, Making Tough Choices, Moving Saint Paul Forward

Parks and Recreation

Overview

Saint Paul's parks and recreation centers are some of the city's greatest assets, adding value to neighborhoods, giving our children opportunities to learn and grow, hosting the state and region at some of the most popular festivals, and showcasing Saint Paul as the Most Livable City in America. Starting in 2007, the department has transformed its investment strategy and service delivery model to overcome shrinking budgets and resources due to reduced LGA, and provide better service at a better price.

Through tough decisions and creative, innovative thinking, the department has enhanced its value, expanding opportunities for recreation centers to serve neighborhoods; extending the learning day for thousands of children with academic and sports programming; and adding strategic investments that have increased access to recreational opportunities – from new fields replacing obsolete rec centers to refrigerated ice rinks to renovated parks that have reclaimed the Mississippi as the lifeblood of Saint Paul.

Diminishing resources continue to challenge the City's world class Parks and Recreation system, but the values that have guided us through the past years will provide the foundation for 2010:

- Seek new partnerships with community groups at five recreation centers.
- Replace three recreation centers with improved fields and new restroom facilities to increase recreational opportunities.
- Invest in remaining facilities and institute consistent hours at those facilities.
- Revisit and continue pursuing new public/private partnerships to bring outside resources to Saint Paul.

Investing in Saint Paul's Future

Mayor Coleman is committed to the investment strategy and service delivery model that has successfully transformed the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department since he took office in 2006. The department remains an integral part of the Second Shift Initiative as well as an Invest Saint Paul strategy to build value in our historic neighborhoods.

- **Payne Maryland Project:** Bringing Saint Paul Public Library and Parks and Recreation together in a mixed-use development, a key investment on Saint Paul's historic East Side.
- **Circulators:** Continue building upon the success of the East Side Circulators that have provided more than 35,000 rides for children to access quality after-school and no-school day programs at recreation centers and libraries as well as the new parking circulators at Como Park Zoo & Conservatory that have improved the experience for visitors as well as the safety of the neighborhoods surround the popular, free statewide attraction.
- **Recreation Center Reprogramming:** Work with community partners to reprogram and manage Baker, Griggs, Margaret, South St. Anthony, and Wilder recreation centers following the models established by Desnoyer Park, St. Clair, and Orchard recreation centers, freeing resources for other centers to serve all facets of the community.
- **Golf and Aquatics Management Restructuring:** Streamline operations to be more efficient by reassigning administrative duties within a new management structure.
- **Emerald Ash Borer:** Reserve resources to combat the significant threat to the city's urban forest.